WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus comprising:

a transabdominal tube having a proximal end portion adapted to be inserted into the upper digestive system of a patient and a distal end portion adapted to extend externally from the patient; and

a pump attachable to the tube for removing partially digested food from the upper digestive system of the patient.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pump is attachable to the distal end portion of the tube.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pump is removable from the tube and comprises at least one of a cylindrical pump, a bulb pump, and a syringe.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the pump is automated and the apparatus further comprises a control section to activate the pump.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein:

the control section comprises sensors which detect at least one of a volume of the removed food and a biochemical/nutritional status of the patient; and

the control section deactivates the pump when one of (i) the detected volume exceeds preset parameters within a given time and (ii) the detected biochemical/nutritional status exceeds preset parameters.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein control section transmits at least one of the detected volume and the detected biochemical/nutritional status to a health care provider.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the control section records detected information.

8. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the pump is manually operable.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a bag adapted to be attached to the pump;

and wherein the removed food is pumped into the bag.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cap for plugging the distal end portion of the tube when the pump is not attached to the tube.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an anchor to hold the tube in the upper digestive system of the patient.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the anchor comprises a balloon anchor coupled to the tube and adapted to be anchored in the upper digestive system of the patient.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the balloon anchor is adapted to be variably inflated so as to selectively fill a desired portion of the stomach of the patient.

14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the tube includes an inflation lumen coupled to said balloon for communicating with the interior of the balloon.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tube includes a one way valve adapted to prevent the partially digested food from unintentionally escaping from the tube;

and wherein the one way valve is adapted to be opened when the pump is attached to the tube.

16. A method comprising:

inserting a tube into a patient such that a proximal end portion of the tube is disposed in the upper digestive system of the patient and a distal end portion of the tube extends externally from the patient;

connecting a pump to the distal end portion of the tube; and

controlling the pump to remove partially digested food from the upper digestive system of the patient through the tube.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

monitoring at least one of a volume of the pumped food and a biochemical/nutritional status of the patient;

ending the pumping when one of (i) the monitored volume exceeds preset parameters within a given time and (ii) the monitored biochemical/nutritional status exceeds preset parameters.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising transmitting at least one of the volume of the pumped food and the biochemical/nutritional status of the patient to a health care provider.

19. The method of claim 16, further comprising at least one of:

educating the patient to modify caloric intake, lifestyle and food psychology through at least one of an instructor-taught program and an internet program;

regularly testing the patient's blood for electrolytes;

supplementing the patient's diet with vitamins as needed; and

administering medication to prevent gallstone formation as needed.

20. An apparatus comprising:

a first tube adapted to be inserted into the upper digestive system of a patient;

a second tube adapted to be inserted into the lower digestive system of the patient;

wherein the first and second tubes are adapted to be connected in a subcutaneous tunnel; and

wherein partially digested food is transported through the first tube and the second tube from the upper digestive system to the lower digestive system of the patient.